

BENT RIM BUGLE

Vol. 6 No. 2

Summer 1992

A Publication of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association



THIS DUDE WAS RACING AT SUGAR LOAF, A MMBA POINTS SERIES EVENT. HE LOOKS FAST-BUT DID HE FILL OUT HIS GREEN SHEET?

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Next BRB Deadline Sept. 15

SPECIALIZED HELPS THE MMBA CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS SERIES

This year those who participate in the MMBA Championship Points Series points tabulation will be in the running for some great products provided by Specialized. Specialized has chosen to support the MMBA series by contributing approximately \$9,000 dollars worth of merchandise to race promoters.

The MMBA would like to thank Specialized for their interest in supporting MMBA related activities. The MMBA relies completely on organizations such as Specialized to help meet the needs of our membership.

THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM:

If your company or organization would like to contribute to the efforts of the MMBA there is plenty of areas that could use support. All five of our state chapters need funding for their newsletters, the Bent Rim Bugle is reaching more people than ever and could distribute several hundred more publications to land management personnel, bicycle shops, clubs and organizations with the proper funding.

So, if you'd like to contribute back to an organization that is constantly working on your behalf, to keep trails in top riding condition, contact us!

BRB

DNR Trails Update . . .

Info from the REC. DIVISION DNR

Michigan Legislature Gives approval to Resolution in Support of State "Railbanking"

Recognizing that railbanking -- putting abandoned rail corridors into a "bank" for possible future use -- is good public policy and complements the establishment of interim or parallel trails on those corridors, both houses of the Michigan Legislature passed a resolution giving their support to "Railbanking". The resolution had been introduced by Senator Vernon J. Ehlers of Grand Rapids.

The resolution further requests that the Michigan Department Of Transportation and Michigan Department of Natural Resources adopt clear policies aimed at saving corridors through railbanking or any other mechanisms and identify adequate funding sources to implement these policies.

This is a strong endorsement by our state representative for the rails-to-trails concept. It is now up to all individuals who support saving Michigan's abandoned rail corridors to contact the director of transportation and natural resources. Let them know that you support the action taken by the Michigan Legislature and that they need to act now to save these valuable corridors before they are lost forever. Write:

Mr. Patrick Nowak
Director of Transportation
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909

and

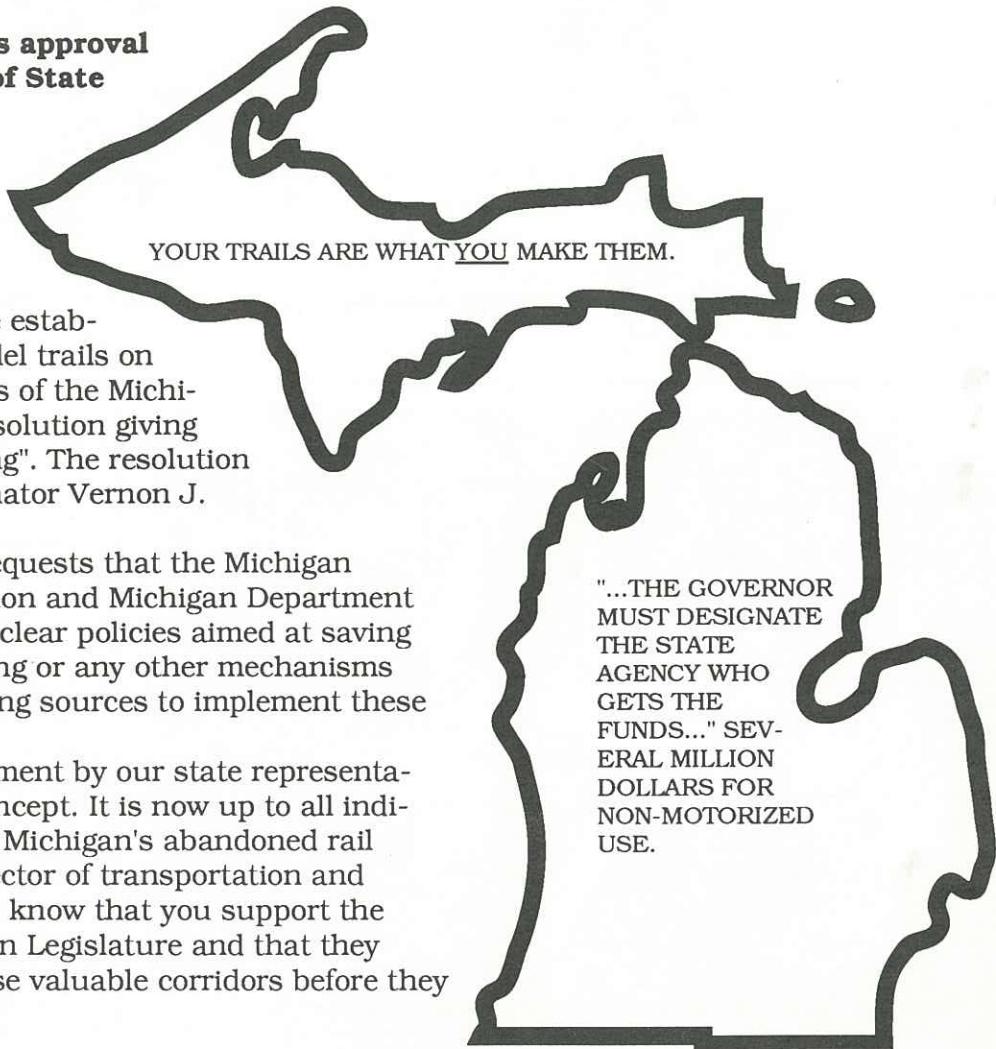
Mr. Roland Harmes
Director DNR
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909

SUMMER RIDING 1992

By Mark Mandenburg DNR REC. DIVISION

With the 1992 riding season getting into full gear it's important to remember a couple of things...

Many trails open to mountain biking in state parks exist due to the efforts of organized mountain bikers volunteering and working closely with the local park managers. Parks Division is restructuring its park management organization. Keep abreast of who is managing the parks you



MMBA Responsibility Code

1. Always yield the right of way to other trail users.
2. Slow down and pass with care (or stop).
3. Control your speed at all times.
4. Stay on designated trails
5. Don't disturb wildlife or livestock.
6. Pack out litter.
7. Respect public and private property.
8. Know local rules.
9. Plan ahead.
10. Avoid riding in large groups.
11. Minimize impact.
12. Report incidents of trail impasse to local park authorities.

(continued on page 19)

NOTES FOR YOUR FANNY PACK:

NOTE ONE:

NEWS FROM IMBA

"...Financially, things continue to be tight. In 1991, we raised approximately \$55,000 and spent \$52,000,

leaving us only a modest reserve. At our January Board Meeting, a 1992 projected budget of \$65,000 was approved. That is a bare bones budget; less than a tenth of other national bicycling organizations. We made that money work for you in 1991 and we will do the same in 1992. (As a member you are entitled to a full detailed financial

statement. If you would like to receive one, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope)."

Jim Hasenauer, President

If you are a member of IMBA I would urge you to do as President Hasenauer suggested so that you can better understand how your state and local chapters spend the hard earned dollars you send the MMBA. The MMBA annual report will appear in the Fall issue of the Bent Rim Bugle.

NOTE TWO:

RACE SCHEDULE UP-DATE:

The June 21st, Kandahar Race was cancelled suddenly. Fortunately long-time mountain biker/promoter Brent Walk, and Fun Promotions has stepped in and put another date on the calendar so that all those who are participating in the point series will have as many chances as possible to participate in the point series races seeking your best scores.

HIDDEN VALLEY RESORT
ATTENTION: LYNN BAES
P.O. BOX 556
GAYLORD, MI 49735

Race date: October 4, as always check with promoter for dates and times.

If you have any questions about the point series or would like more information send your written inquiry-

(notes cont. on page 4)

Compiled and written by
Dwain Abramowski

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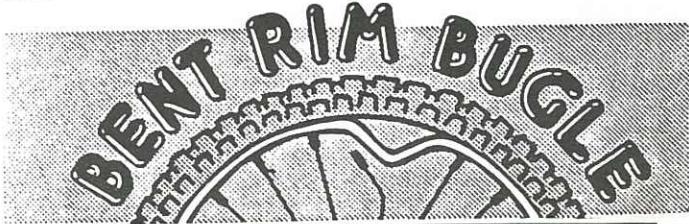
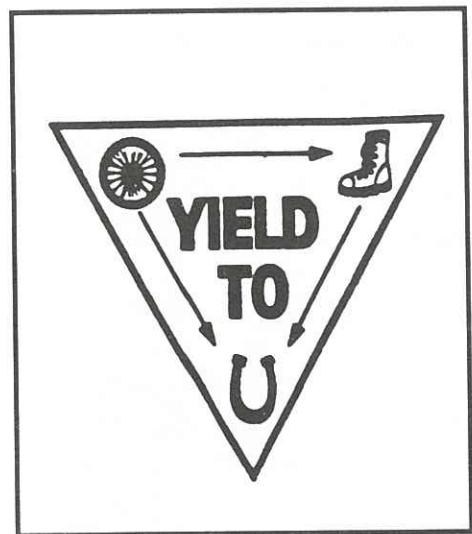
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Live Performances of the **Last Call Band**

The Willies
John Prine

Material Provided By
"Our Mother Earth"

Use them wisely and recycle.

This magazine is printed on recycled paper.

NEXT BRB DEADLINE
Sept. 15, 1992

In Your Back Yard

"...1.35 billion gallons of used motor oil are generated annually in the US...and the volume of it that's disposed of improperly is the equivalent of 16 Exxon Valdez oil spills..."

Environmental Business Journal

(Notes Cont. from pg. 3)

ies to:

MMBA/Specialized Race Committee
P.O. Box 274
Detroit, MI 48231

NOTE THREE:

FILL OUT THOSE GREEN SHEETS AT EVERY RACE!
FILL OUT THOSE GREEN SHEETS AT EVERY RACE!

Look for the MMBA race info/green sheet booth at every race and if you can't find it contact the promoter and tell him/her you want to be counted in the MMBA Championship Points Series.

Race safely and Have fun!

NOTE FOUR:

How do I know where I stand?

At the MMBA race booth (at all the points series races) we try to have an up to date copy of the standings for everyone to look at.

However, complications often get in the way of providing this information. Most commonly, **promoters do not send our computer person the race results, and/or racers do not fill out green**

sheets. This causes delays and headaches for everyone.

At one point this year the MMBA was going to try and put out a monthly points series standing up-date, but it has been put on hold until we can work out some of the information collecting challenges.

Once we get the bugs out of collecting the data in a timely manner the MMBA will try and get more information to you. Look for current standings in this issue of the BRB.

NOTE FIVE:

**Who and what is RIDE?
Recreation for Individuals
Dedicated to the Environment**

RIDE, is a non-profit organization, whose mission is the preservation and restoration of the natural environment and to advocate public access to natural areas for education and recreation, by means of silent sports multiple-use trails.

The MMBA has been in contact and working with RIDE in trying to keep the Kettle Moraine Forest trails open in Wisconsin. As recently

as April, the MMBA was invited to Wisconsin and contributed to the successful efforts that kept portions of the Kettle Moraine State forest open to multi-use.

RIDE's goal, according to founder and president Carl Birklebach, "I see RIDE

HOW DO YOU BENEFIT FROM THE MMBA?

- Land Access Updates (see page 2)
- Where to ride/Trail Reviews (see Chapter Chatter in this issue)
- How to contact park officials and legislators (see DNR article.)
- Chapter Membership - opportunity to get involved at many levels (contact your chapter president see chapter chatter in this issues)
- Special Events: 1992 Points Series, MMBA Fun Day in July 1992, chapter rides, excursions, etc.
- Rider Education/Safety Training (read Notes for Your Fanny Pack in this issue)
- Discount at member bikes shops (contact your local MMBA MEMBER BIKE SHOP to see if they participate)
- Membership in the MMBA is currently at about 500 individuals statewide. There are five chapters. Each chapter can share with you areas that have the best riding. The MMBA is one voice in the state that is totally involved with the needs and concerns of mountain bikers.

The MMBA is you!

serving as a clearing house for land access and nature preservation here in the Midwest. We want to keep our communication lines open to everyone and then share that information with all those who want and need it."

If per-chance you've been holding back your talents for an organization with a larger scope perhaps RIDE is for you. They need your support just as the MMBA does so that we can all benefit. Contact:

RIDE
208 South LaSalle Suite 1808
Chicago, IL 60604
(800) 458-2358

BRB

BENT RIM BUGLE PUBLISHING INFO

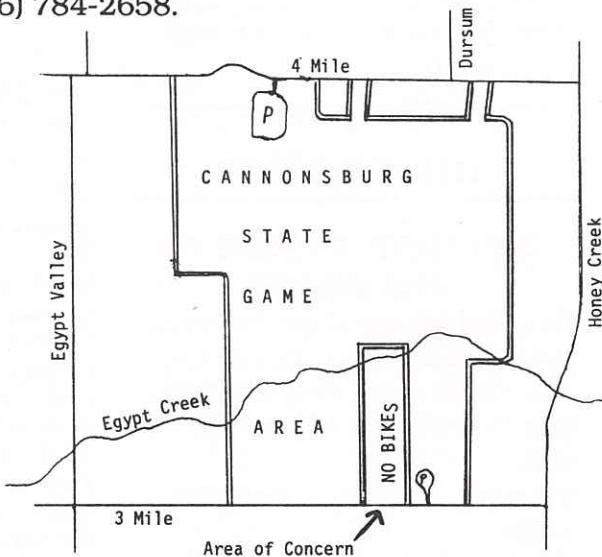
The Bent Rim Bugle (BRB) is published 4 times a year (quarterly) Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. The BRB is the source for news and information from the Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA). Articles come from MMBA members, MMBA Chapter Presidents, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and other sources. The focus of the BRB is on what is of interest to MMBA members as well as environmental issues, land access, mountain biking events, rides, competition and other activities and information related to the mountain biking.

Editorial contributions and photos are welcomed, but can not be returned unless accompanied by proper postage. Send contributions to: MMBA/BRB P.O. Box 29, Belmont MI 49306. The BRB also can provide classified ads to MMBA members for free and advertising space to shops and manufactures. For deadlines and rates contact the address above or call, (616) 784-9327.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the MMBA, Publisher, or MMBA members, Dealers, or Sponsors.

Cannonsburg State Game Area Advisement:

The map below shows a section of trail that is no longer open to hiking, mountain biking, Cross-country skiing, or hunting. It is a piece of land that was once leased by the DNR for specific activities, but has since changed hands and is no longer under any DNR management jurisdiction. For those of you familiar with the route, it was the long steep up-hill and subsequent down-hill to the creek (where there is no longer a bridge (boards and pallet material) for crossing. If you have questions about where this section of trail is contact the MMBA at (616) 784-9327 or the Flat River State Game Area, Belding Michigan at (616) 784-2658.



— GUESTS IN THE HOME OF THE WILDLIFE —

A Look At Your Public Lands:

By Dwain Abramowski

Opinion and advice (with direction from a local DNR Wildlife Management Official) on the use and care of game areas and other public lands.

In terms of state lands and mountain biking, there are many choices. Virtually all state forest trails are open to mountain biking. In many of the state parks/recreation areas where there is room and trails available there are both multi-use trails and designated mountain biking trails. There are national forest trails too, ski area trails and county and

city parks too, that are open to mountain biking.

There is however a group of lands that remain in a gray area when it comes to mountain biking - the state game areas. Five years or so ago when I got into mountain biking, the multi-use (hunting in the fall and cross country in the winter) state game area near my house was rarely used in the summer. In fact, come June each year you could not even find many of the trails because they would be covered in over-growth.

Today, it is a favorite spot for those late evening rides all

summer long.

Game areas are managed through the DNR separately from other public lands with the main focus being wildlife management and hunting. With this in mind, other activities such as cross-country skiing, hiking, mountain biking, etc. are secondary concerns of the management of game areas in Michigan.

In consideration of this, it is important that we (mountain bikers) understand the game

area management goals and take the steps necessary to co-exist within this framework.

First and foremost, we should take it upon ourselves to assist management of these game areas in achieving their main objective of wildlife management and hunting.

Here is a list of things you can do to help:

1. When it is possible, choose other areas to mountain bike. And remember some game areas have no designated hiking, cross-country skiing or mountain biking, so activities other than hunting may be severely limited.

2. During hunting season (small game around Oct. 1

through March 1, Deer hunting around November 15 through December 1, check with the DNR for specific dates), choose other areas to ride. At the very least wear, appropriate "hunter orange" clothing.

3. Buy a hunting license and wear it while in the game areas to show your willingness to contribute to its management and preservation.

If a license is not possible, contact the management of the game area and express your willingness to contribute time and/or money to game area management projects.

4. Educate yourself and other riders on the land management directives for the lands you ride. This does not necessarily limit your involvement to game areas.

5. Recognize your impact on the lands you ride, and take appropriate measures to mitigate the impact. Meaning, don't ride when it's muddy, cut new trails in the woods, in short follow the IMBA/MMBA rider responsibility code.

6. Keep your eyes and ears open to what is going on in the game areas (as well as other public lands). At the local game area where I have the privilege of riding, I have run across individuals who dump trash, discarded appliances, junk cars (yes cars) and other such garbage. Report these offenses to your local land management officials.

7. Remember, a use permit is required for all maintenance activities in game areas (this goes for public lands in

general). However it is advisable that you develop a working relationship with land management officials before you walk in out of the blue, and say, "I need a permit" to do this or that.

Lastly, remember that we are guests in game areas and as such we need to make sure we are invited back by being sensitive to the needs of the land managers who administrate over the lands and those who the lands are purchased for, the hunters.

B R B

General Information

DO I HAVE TO RIDE ON THE ROAD?

Detailed biking Maps for those times when a road ride is the ride of the day...contact Michigan Department of Transportation

Transportation Building, Bike Maps

4th Floor, Financial Services Division

425 W. Ottawa Street
Lansing MI 48909

STILL AT WORK

Cal Is Still At Work...on the trail atlas. It's a slow process, being volunteer and all. But please send information if you have any. Contact Cal Lamoreaux, 11220 Keller Rd. Shelbyville MI 49344-9612 (616) 664-4792.

Name of Trail-

Area Name-

Type Of Area-

Fee required-

Type of Trail Surface-

Miles total length-

Loop(s)-

Linear-

Condition of trail surface:

usable by road bikes-
usable by road bikes in some seasons-
fat tires required-
Very fat tires, some obstructions-

Nearest Bike Shop-

Comments:

Information contact(s)-

Address/phone-

Club-

MMBA Mountain Biking Trail Listing Report Update

According to Cal, who is compiling this list of mountain biking trails in the state of Michigan for MMBA members, we need more information on:

Lakeland Trail Park

Mackinaw-Alanson

Blueberry Ridge Pathway

Cadillac Pathway

Cannonsburg

Copper Harbor Pathway

High Country Pathway

Mason Tract Pathway

NLM Snowmobile Council

Pine Haven Pathway

Mackinaw State Forest

Escanaba River State Forest

Pere Marquette State Forest

Copper Country State Forest

Au Sable State Forest

Emmett County

Rose Lake

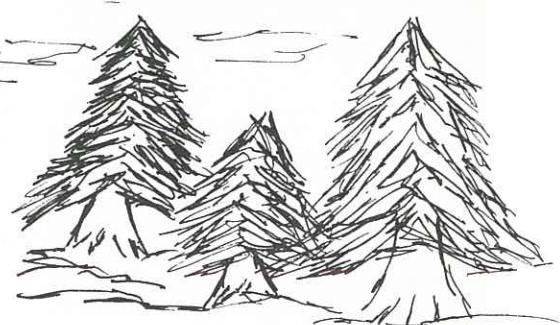
Shingle Mill Pathway

Sweden Town Pathway

(Gen. Info cont. pg. 9)

"Trees are like sponges
sopping up CO₂ by the megaton."

Plant one this year, and
watch tomorrow grow.



**MMBA POINT SERIES
STANDINGS AS OF 6-13-
92/SUGAR LOAF EVENT**

**PRO EXPERT
ALL AGES**

1. CHERYL BURFORD
2. ELISE HARRINGTON
3. LORENA SELDON
4. JENNIFER BURCK
5. MARGARET SANCHEZ
6. KAREN STANLEY

SPORT

1. PAM SAVICK
2. RHONDA CAREY
3. ANNE GROFVERT
4. LORI GAUTHIER
5. MARY DAVISON
6. DONNA VENTIMIGLIA
7. DEBRA SIELOFF
8. HOLLY HALTERMAN
9. AMY SAPULSKI
10. DEB ISACKSEN

BEGINNER

1. KATE BREAZEALE
2. VICKI TOWAS
3. SANDRA FRENCH
4. CYNTHIA BRUCE
5. CAROLINE MASSEY
6. SUSAN BOTT-GREENWALD
7. GAIL LIND

MICHIGAN-ELITE

1. MARK CRAMER
2. STEVEN HAMMETT
3. JOE FRITSCH
4. ERIK BORGNES
5. DONALD FEDRIGON JR.
6. ED REID
7. MATTHEW COLLIGAN
8. KEITH KETTERER
9. DAVID McCLEAN
10. SCOTT TEMPLAR

EXPERT I UP TO 25

1. BRIAN GREENE
2. MIKE O'REILLY
3. ANDREW RICE
4. MATTHEW COLLIGAN
5. RICHARD SNODSMITH
6. JOHN ADAIR
7. JEREMY TUGGLE
8. TIMOTHY KRAL
9. JERELD RICE
10. RICHARD SUSAN

EXPERT II 26-34

1. DAN CAREY
2. JAY CAMPBELL
3. TODD ULRICH
4. DAN KLEIN
5. STEVE WEINRIB
6. DAVID HOLLIS
7. JEFF SMITH
8. BILL DIETLIN

**9. SCOTT MCLAREN
10. WENDELL WOODRUFF
EXPERT VET 35+**

1. MATT DALY
2. DON CAMP
3. RANDY DICKERSON
4. PAT LYNCH
5. GARY MOORE
6. MIKE MOTOWSKI
7. STEVEN BERTHEL

SPORT

JUNIOR UP TO 17

1. ZACHARY DAAB
2. MICHAEL O'BRIEN
3. THOMAS HOOGERDYLE
4. JASON WOLCOTT
5. CHAD SCHUT
6. COREY TERZO

SENIOR I 18-25

1. MATT WESTER
2. ERIC CROY
3. JEFF WEINERT
4. TONY FERRIGAN
5. SCOTT HARGREAVE
6. JAY KELLY
7. JOHN ROOT
8. KEVIN GAUMAN
9. SAM MARKLEY
10. CHRIS WOLTERS

SENIOR II 26-34

1. JAY JONES
2. LEWIS TRIPP
3. JOEL BREAZEALE
4. KENT BUTA
5. JIM JAMES
6. DOUGLAS CORNELL
7. STUART SVOBODA
8. STEVE WESTER
9. SCOTT LEE
10. DAVID JESSOP

VET 35-44

1. PAUL GILLAN
2. STEVE MONTAGUE
3. STU STUBER
4. BILL LINDHOUT
5. PAT LYNCH
6. PAT BRUCE

7. JEFF VOORHIS
8. GARY STEPHENSON
9. PHILIP CANNON
10. THOMAS SAWYER
11. MIKE CLARK

MASTER 45-54

1. GARY COOK
2. THOMAS JONES
3. TIM GREENING
4. ROBERT LINDEN
5. DAN CIHAK
6. ART FLEMING
7. ROBERT YONKERS
8. LAVERN RICE
9. JOHN GEIGER
10. RICHARD MALONE

BEGINNER

JUNIOR UP TO 17

1. MIKE KOZLOWSKI
2. MATT GRILL
3. BARY MOORE JR.
4. GRIAN WALSH
5. BENJAMIN TYSZKA

6. IAN WILDS
7. LEVI JORDAN
8. SEAN O'BRIEN

SENIOR I 18-25

1. RON GRANT
2. MIKE GRDULSKI
3. CARL HANSEN
4. JIM COLFLESH JR.
5. CHRIS VOS
6. ROGER GREEN
7. GENE IDZIAK
8. DAMON MARXER
9. STEVE REED
10. WILLIAM QUINSEY

SENIOR II 26-34

1. RONALD WINTERS
2. ULRICH WEISSERT
3. TODD SCOTT
4. ROBERT SCHMANTOWSKI
5. ROBERT SIGETY
6. JIM HALBERG
7. TIMOTHY TAYLOR
8. DAVID BRIODY
9. STEVE BAKER
10. TERRY CARPENTER

VET 35-44

1. RIC WILLIAMS
2. DAVE GOODNOUGH
3. LARRY HATFIELD
4. JIM JORDAN
5. DAVID BROWN
6. RANDY BELINSKY
7. GARY SIMON
8. CLINT GUESS

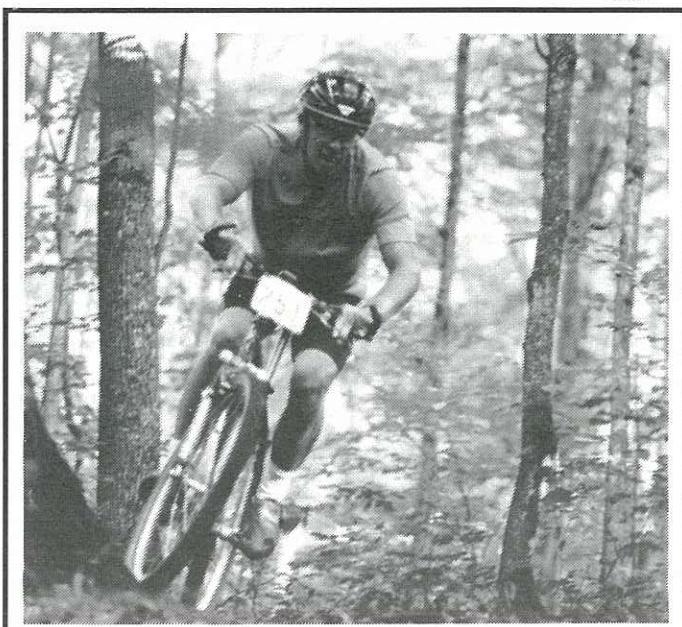
MASTER 45-54

1. LARY NEW
2. CHUCK LESTER
3. RICHARD NASH
4. ROBERT PIHAJLIC
5. GORDON JELTEMA
6. RICHARD MALARE

SUPER MASTER 55+

1. DON FEDRIGONS
2. FRANK BOWER

B R B



The Bicycle Institute of America reported an increase in all-terrain (mt. bikes) bicycle sales from 5 million in 1987 to over 11 million in 1990.

OUT OF TOWN INFO-

1000 FEET

"Hey take a Gondola to the summit and boogey down 1000 feet of mountain trials and access roads. Or if you're a tough guy/woman ride to the top!"

Where, Durango? California? NOT!

Try Lusten Mountains, in Lusten Minnesota. Contact: Fat Tire Touring P.O. Box 192, Lusten, MN 55612.

Out-state update: Wisconsin/Ride/Kettle Moraine

According to IMBA's Newsletter - *Land Access Alert*, "Midwestern mountain biking advocates won a significant victory in April when the Wisconsin Board of Natural Resources voted to re-open several singletrack trail systems in the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The Board had closed the trails to cyclists last year in response to complaints by hikers and the Sierra Club. The decision concludes several years of roller-coaster political movement for Midwestern mountain bike activists, led by Carl Birkelbach." For more information on the Kettle see the June, 1992 issues of IMBA's, *Land Access Alert*, P.O. Box 412043, Los Angeles, CA 90041. (818) 792-8830

Eco-Tours, Mountain Biking In Searchmont Canada

Searchmont Ski Resort, just outside of Sault Ste. Marie Canada, is home to the Mountains of the Midwest. With high

peaks of granite, and a green carpet of wilderness, there is plenty of opportunity to discover the true nature of the forest.

Searchmont offers guided tours through the Canadian wilderness including biking/hiking expeditions, biking/canoeing adventures, and tours that range from a few hours to all day. The Canadian north is home to bear, moose, deer, beavers, water foul and a host of other creatures. For more information contact: Searchmont Resort, P.O. Box 1029, Sault Ste. Marie Ontario, Canada P6A 5N5 (705) 781-2340.

LOOK, THERE IS A MOUNTAIN IN YOUR BACK YARD!

Within about six hours of southern Michigan there is a mountain biking mecca forming.

(Town cont. pg. 9)

Woodland Mountain Biking

(excerpt)

Just to Bug You...

Mosquito - Probably the most commonly encountered insect, as if that need be said.

Protection: Keep covered with long sleeves and pants. Insect repellents with a high concentration of DEET are effective, but heavy use raises health concerns. Best bet is to apply repellent to clothing rather than skin.

Deer Fly - Encountered mostly in July and August primarily around swamps. Also called "ear fly" for its penchant for buzzing around ears and head.

Protection: Wear a French Foreign Legion-type hat that drapes behind to protect the neck. A bandanna under your hat will work as well.

Tick - Lyme disease brought ticks notoriety a couple of years ago, and caution is still well warranted. Even non-Lyme

(Woodland Cont. on pg. 13)



MMBA Members at Searchmont

(Gen. cont. from pg. 6)

Protect the Environment

Many household batteries from radios, watches, flashlights, hearing aids, cameras, toys, appliances, bike odometer batteries, bike headlights, etc. contain heavy metals which can become hazardous when burned in waste-to-energy incinerators or buried in a solid waste landfill. Battery casings eventually will corrode, leaking the battery contents. In an incinerator batteries can rupture and contaminate the residual ash, in a landfill, battery leaks may contribute to groundwater pollution. Long-term exposure to heavy metals can cause severe health problems including brain damage and cancer. Some convenient locations to drop off batteries include municipal offices, public libraries, local stores and some schools. Check out your nearest locations and inform your fellow mountain bikers.

Exercise for Love

Working out with your spouse may help keep your marriage running right.

Psychiatrist Ira D. Blick, M.D. a Cornell University family therapist, says that for some couples, exercise can:

- *be a shared interest
- *reduce stress
- *give you time for just the two of you away from the household pressures
- *increase communication.

Blick says any shared activity works **as long as you can talk.**

Whether it's biking, tennis, or running, the idea is to set a time devoted to the activity, and to being together with time to talk.

Because exercising makes you feel so good, there's an added benefit: It's hard to be disagreeable when you feel great and are happy about how you look and feel.

Whatever the activity, don't save all your talk for workouts.

It's very important to talk daily.

"That sounds like simple advice, but many people don't follow it." Blick says.

"The more you can do to make the communications easier and pleasant, the better likelihood the relationship will do well," Says Blick.

Editors note: Yea right. When you hit the trail hammer like a crazed elk and make your spouse eat your dust...then again if you're interested in having a long happy relationship with your significant other, save the training rides for your tree trunk thighed friends. Remember, as Blick implies, it's: talking+ exercise = relationship.

Never mistake motion for action."

Ernest Hemingway

(Town cont. for pg. 8)

"The Mountains of The Midwest", Searchmont, located about an hour and a half north of the Mackinaw bridge, outside of Sault Ste. Marie, Canada, is developing several hundred kilometers of mountain biking trails.

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In The Next Issue Of

The BRB!

Points Series Up-date-
Fall Events Listing-
Trail Information-

Information on The Simms Act Funding-
Your Article and Pictures

(So, hurry up and send them to me, MMBA Editorial, P.O. Box 29 Belmont, MI 49306.)

Editorial Deadline Sept. 15th

CHAPTER CHATTER...

YANKEE SPRINGS-YANKS IN \$...A BUNDLE...\$

By Dwain Abramowski

Breakaway Bicycles of Kalamazoo, with the help of Steve Miller a mountain biker/sometimes promoter from the Kalamazoo area held a race at the Yankee Springs Recreation area on May 31. The event was billed as a benefit for the mountain biking trails at Yankee Springs, and from all accounts was a success.

With nearly 200 competitors from Michigan, and surrounding states about 400 dollars was raised and donated to the Yankee Springs Recreation Area. Initially, some of the money was used for signs on the trail, posts, tools for the race and other miscellaneous items. The remainder was donated to the MMBA and earmarked for future projects on the trail system.

In terms of riding, the mountain bike trail at Yankee Springs has to be one of most beautiful pieces of single-track in southern Michigan. The trail-head is located at the Deep Lake Camp Ground, opposite the Berry State Game Area (which is not advocated for mountain bike use).

A personal view from the Editor and MMBA President:

At the Yankee Springs race, I saw cars (with bike racks and cycling stickers) parked along Yankee Springs Road and on Hart Road before during and after the race. There was plenty of parking available at the race site in the Deep Lake Camp



Ground area, so at first I didn't understand why the cars were parked along the road. Later after talking to one of the cyclist who was parked along the road I understood it. The cyclist said he didn't want to pay the couple bucks for a one day park entry fee or buy a yearly sticker to get into the park.

Well, to say the least, this concept blew my mind. Let see, the DNR/State Park system was very cooperative in helping us (many MMBA members, especially Mark Cramer and Bob Lawson) build the 14 plus miles of awesome single-track, allow us to put on a race there, provided parking at the race site, and gave advice on signing and design of the trail and this cyclist says, "I didn't want to pay three bucks" for the day to use/race on the trails.

To put it mildly, this cyclist will not be on my Christmas card list. He, as far as I know, was not an MMBA member. Fortunately there were many other MMBA and Non-MMBA racers who did pay the admission fee, (I bought a yearly sticker). Think about it the State Parks/DNR starts looking at its balance sheet and sees - Lots of mountain bikers - not buying stickers to use the

park...lots of campers who buy stickers to use the park...Now they have to decide how to use the money-campers 1 mountain bikers 0.

Don't let this happen. If you use a State Park buy a State Park sticker. Make the system work, be visible, contribute to the fund balance to make sure we all have the option of sharing in the future of our state park system.

Perhaps this may be a good idea too, if you use a state game area open to mountain biking, - buy a hunting licence...what do you think?

PONTIAC LAKE CHAPTER UPDATE:

By Jay Jones

Well, by the time you read this article, it will be summer and the annual spring clean-up at Pontiac Lake will be the furthest thing from your mind. You'll be thinking of your next race or how you'll fit your next ride into your busy schedule.

Enough of the fun stuff and let's get to the business at hand. The annual spring clean-up was another howling success. On April 26 about 35 people showed up to do their duty.

With everyone present we divided into a couple of lean, mean-cleaning machines. As we scoured the hills and valleys for any foreign debris the sun beat down on our smiling mugs. After the dust had settled we had enough trash to fill two pick up trucks.

Although this clean-up had one of our best turn-outs, we can always use more volunteers to help out. If you value your access to Pontiac Lake we must all do our share. With everyone (Chatter cont. on pg. 13)

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THE EFFORTS OF THE MMBA AND
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**IF YOU DO NOT SEE YOUR
NAME HERE BUT WOULD LIKE
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BRB DEADLINE Sept. 15

New Members

Mike Jones
Charles Robertson
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David Chown
Tim Miller
Jeff Darr
Daniel Horne
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Steve Gerthel
Tom Zyskowski
Norm Roller
Mark Howell
Kevin Bell
(cont. on pg. 19)

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working together we can continue to ride at our favorite location. Again...thanks to all who helped out and we hope to see more of you next time.

Two other notes...A DNR officer has surveyed the "Northwest Passage" trail and it looks to be very promising for approval.

A very special GET WELL to chapter member Steve Wester who suffered a nasty knee injury while racing at Sugar Loaf. Hope to see you soon on the trails.

Remember...ride safe, have fun and keep a smile on your mug.

Al Sabo Remains Closed ...But Is To RE-OPEN

According to Paul Wells, owner of Breakaway Bikes in Kalamazoo, MI and member of the committee to help develop AL Sabo land recreational use policy, "A compromise was reached this spring which will designate the northern portion of the 'Land Preserve' to hiking only, and the southern portion to hiking and mountain biking."

However, the PARK REMAINS CLOSED TO BOTH HIKERS AND MOUNTAIN BIKERS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR.

According to Paul, "the prevailing concept is that the preserve needs to rest from all user groups. This summer and

fall will focus on trail repair and maintenance." Paul and other land preserve users have spent time out at the preserve determining where access points should be, identifying sections that need to be fenced off so that unauthorized access can be controlled and marking trails.

One of the concepts being considered is allowing recreational use of the preserve on a permit basis only. The permits could only be obtained by those who put in time caring for the preserve. Though not finalized, caring for the preserve would include not only trail care and maintenance, but phone call activities, information dissemination, educational activities, etc.

This permit system is in its very early stages and input is encouraged from all user groups.

POTO CHAPTER CHATTER

By bd(Brian Delaney, Poto Chapter President)

If you've been to the Potawatomi Trail, in Pinckney Recreation area lately you will have most likely seen some changes regarding trail conditions. This is in large part due to our ongoing trail maintenance plans executed in cooperation with the Pinckney Park management and other users groups, as well as some hard working Poto Chapter Members.

Steve Weinrib, has recently been appointed our trail maintenance coordinator. He has been acting as a liaison between us and the local DNR, to structure our goals and expedite projects. Hats off to Steve for all the help and the attitude he showed to work with every-

one involved.

Project one was *Suicide Hill*. The treacherous drop-off just past the Boy Scout Camp entrance. We filled in areas and installed water bars to keep water off the trail and keep it from pooling down the center. We also re-graded the descent to move water downhill of the trail surface.

Project two was the Pinckney Rec. Trail-head. An area that sees a lot of bikes and foot traffic. We contacted Mr. Robert Allen, of Ground Support Inc. in Grand Rapids to implement a new product he's been testing in various sites around the Midwest for both biking and non-bike applications. It's a newly developed erosion control grid that with his assistance we managed to install up the trail just past the Silver Hill Rd crossing. Bob, Pinckney Recreation Area staff, and about a dozen Poto members made short work of the job in late April.

Next, Steve and Karin Hepman of Pickney Recreation staff directed the "professional" volunteer corps in installing half a dozen water-bars on the back side of *Crooked Lake Hill*.

(Chapt. cont. pg. 16)

(Wood. cont. from pg. 8)

carrying ticks' bites are annoying and open to infection.

Protection: Wear long sleeves and pants, keeping cuffs buttoned and pant legs tucked into socks.

Spray clothing with a good repellent. After an outing take a hot shower to wash off ticks, which need 24 to 48 hours to attach themselves to a host.
(Source - Ann Arbor News)

DNR Parks Division Revisited

By Chris Delridge with Don LeHue

Department of Natural Resources

To: Mr. Dwain Abramowski
Editor/Publisher

BRB/MMBA

Dear Dwain,

Thank you for sending me a copy of the spring issue of the Bent Rim Bugle.

I did want to let you know, however, that I was very disappointed with an article appearing in the spring issue written by Mr. Don LeHue, entitled "DNR Changing Park and Recreation Area Structure." That article contains a considerable amount of incorrect information and attributes quotes and policy statements to myself which are totally incorrect.

I do not recall having talked personally to Mr. Don LeHue. As you are aware, my office is open and in the future I would suggest Mr. LeHue or any other contributor to your newsletter contact me directly regarding state park policy. I would be happy to discuss with them the future direction of the state park system. I don't believe it benefits the mountain biking cause or the state park system to acquire incorrect information from second-hand sources and report them in this way.

I believe you and your organization would agree with me that state parks has been, and will continue to be, supportive of mountain biking and other trail-related issues. These are difficult fiscal times for all of us and I look forward to working closely with your association and others to help better manage the state park system with limited resources that we have.

Please feel free to give me a call if you would like to talk about this or any other subjects.

Sincerely,
Russell J. Harding
Chief Parks Division

To begin with, if you didn't read BRB Volume 6 #1, your Spring issue, go through your recycle pile, pull it out and read "DNR CHANGING PARK & REC. AREA STRUCTURE".

Good, now you're up to date. And now you've done what Russell Harding, Chief of Parks Michigan DNR, has done. But reading it and agreeing with it are two different things.

In a letter to MMBA President Dwain Abramowski, Mr. Harding stated that he "was very disappointed with the article..." and that "it contains a considerable amount of incorrect information..."

In that article, some of the perceptions and fears that many citizens and DNR Park's Division employees have con-

cerning the DNR reorganization were expressed. While the article created some controversy, much of the feedback received confirmed that the issues discussed were accurate, at least in expressing the concerns that we have for our parks. Some, however, feel that we criticized the reorganization before it had a chance to be put fully into effect.

Our doom and gloom prose in the last article was meant to get members attention to one example of many concerns facing the MMBA leadership. Most of you won't notice these changes at first, but if there is any significant results from these changes, positive or negative, they will effect your chapter leadership in their un-

ending work to improve mountain biking in Michigan.

In any case, the obvious results, the condition of our parks, will be the telltale sign. If it's positive, great. If it's negative, such as the sale or giveaway of park or severe damage off season, by the time you notice the changes, it may be too late.

In the name of fair play, we contacted Mr. Harding to discuss these issues. This was not an "us verses them" discussion though. Mr. Harding began positively by clarifying how some of the reorganization policies are being enacted.

The Core-Satellite Management system, currently in effect at most parks, was done in an effort to consolidate management efforts and to centralize the associated office work involved. In the past, reducing seasonal staffing had been the cost saving practice.

"We have Managers who aren't managing" Harding said, referring to Park Managers forced to do the general working tasks due to a lack of staff personnel.

But will this system of management increase the working staff or just put to much of a work load on Park Managers?

"We (DNR Parks) expect to see a 1.5 million dollars savings next year. These revenues are to be placed back in the field." Mr. Harding said. "I'll be the first one to agree..." that there is not enough manpower.

According to Mr. Harding,

there are expenses involved in this implementation, in the form of early retirement and leave time pay outs, and the increased office and organizational work involved. So the savings won't show up immediately. But this year's seasonal staffing is to remain at last year's levels as the implementation of the new system is begun.

As far as how the system works, Mr. Harding disagreed with our stating that the Satellite parks would be closed with no maintenance. We'll split the difference on this one.

Not all Satellite parks are closed for the winter. Some remain open for winter activities, but on the other side of the coin, some of the Core parks may be closed. In either case, Mr. Harding stressed that a full time attendance person had been assigned to these closed facilities.

This is better than total abandonment, yet not as good as complete staffing. We do recognize that the park system is in dire financial straits, and perhaps this is the better of two evils. It should be noted that the dissatisfaction we expressed reflected not only a concern for the parks during the off season and the decision to reduce staff and availability of these facilities but of the



current economic and social trends.

Mr. Harding did admit that "...We don't have all the answers...we're still feeling our way through."

How the system will eventually pan out will be done by trial and error, or, hopefully, by experience and input. As an example, Dodge Brothers State Park #4, which was closed this past winter, will be open next winter. This in part due to a strong amount of input by those visitors that have enjoyed the park's winter activities in the past.

As far as the concerns that some park employees have shared with us, Mr. Harding emphatically denied any plan to intentional over-burden park management or to privatize parks in this way.

He did not, however, offer any guarantee that privatizing would not happen in the future. "Michigan's Park System is currently larger than our budget can support" Mr. Harding said. This was of deep concern to those of us in the Southeastern part of the state where privatizing would most likely take place. In desperate times, these actions may be necessary, but at what price?

Mr. Harding stated that, "...there were no immediate plans for divestment of any park" and he did not want to see the DNR, "closing parks, for once you divest a park, it's out of the system." He did say that if divesting was found to be necessary, it would be on a much smaller scale that may have been reported elsewhere.

Mr. Harding also brought to light some interesting details in the Rochester-Utica Recreation

Area transfer. In this case, the state has maintained ownership of the two areas, establishing a lease/operating agreement with the local communities.

Although the agreement insists on the communities keeping both resident and non-resident entrance fees equal, we did express misgivings at now having to either choose this park over actual state parks or the need to purchase yet another vehicle pass.

We do retract part of the comments attributed to Mr. Harding concerning who uses Michigan State Parks after contacting Mike LaGerould, Chairman of the Friends of Bald Mountain Committee, to confirm his statements. Mr. Harding stated that there is a Strategic Planning Committee in charge of determining what activities are proper for our parks. This committee will be holding public hearings this fall to solicit ideas from the general public.

Mr. Harding denied the statements concerning park activities. I'm sure we speak for Mike, in apologizing if these comments or statements were misconstrued or incorrect. This does leave us to hope that Mr. Harding and Mr. LaGerould would work toward a possible meeting in an effort to understand the issues and perceptions involved.

The facts are clear that the DNR and especially the parks division, needs reworking. The question is, is this the right
(Cont. on pg. 17)

Name miss-spellings due to un-readable master copy/list and/or tired volunteer fingers....

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AUGUST 16 - ALPINE VALLEY
AUGUST 30 - BITTERSWEET
SEPTEMBER 5 - ROMEO (EXIBITION)**
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SEPTEMBER 6 - COOL
SEPTMEBER 7 - GARLAND**
SEPTEMBER 13 - KANDAHAR
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OCTOBER 11 - PANDO
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**MONDAY (HOLIDAY)

***REPLACES CANCELLED
JUNE 21 KANDAHAR RACE

(Chapt. Chat. cont. from pg. 13)

All of the above projects are test sites to monitor how the techniques used will hold up to use and the ravages of mother nature. We're proud to be able to give back to such a beautiful trail as the Poto and look forward to a long cooperative relationship with the DNR in future trail maintenance projects. Call the Poto Chapter or your local chapter for more details.

Mid-Michigan Chapter

Currently the Mid-Michigan chapter is busy planning this season's events and activities. According to Pat Dueweke, Chapter President. This past spring there were two trips north. One on the north country Pathway and the other to Boise Blank Island lead by Dennis Hansen.

Grand River Park, in Igham county has started a mountain biking rental program and has

expanded the trail system that was put in by the county and the Mid-Michigan Chapter.

Searchmont anyone? If you're interested call the Mid-Michigan chapter and let them know that you want to join them for their fall trip north to the Canadian wilderness. For more info- (517) 351-7240 ask for Pat.

BRB



direction?

Mr. Harding was very convincing and positive. An example of this is his recognizing that park budgets are not distributed as equitably as they should be. With the newly instituted Core-Satellite System, managers now have the right to distribute funding within their Satellite System as they see fit.

The need to save money is all encompassing. "We're about out of tricks in the bag," Harding said. The next step is to raise revenues. This could include changes in the rate structure, such as a slightly higher non-resident fee for out of state users or higher rates at more popular parks.

This season will see an increase in the number of souvenir items for sale at parks concessions. The future may also bring about a small charge for guided tours and nature walks to off-set those expenses.

In the continuing efforts to save dollars, here's something we think you'll like. The DNR is currently putting more staff people on bicycles rather than in trucks. Just as many police departments have found this useful and much more personable, Mr. Harding hopes this will improve public relations in our parks.

On a positive note for your favorite park or trail system, Mr. Harding spoke of Project Need Money. These funds would be for revenue generating or visitor services projects. This included trail improvements.

The idea behind these funds is sort of an incentive plan for the managers and supporting

groups. We suggested, as a possible use for such funds, that if the MMBA, in conjunction with other groups and the park management, developed a Multi-Use Trail Proposal for a park, could these funds be used? Mr. Harding seemed very excited at the idea, stating that this was exactly what the DNR had in mind.

We are very appreciative of Mr. Harding allowing us the opportunity to speak with him on these issues. Mr. Harding understands that the MMBA, while being eager to work with and for the DNR, will not become a simple "yes" group. If we agree or disagree with policy or decisions, we will express our concerns to and from our members and to the general public.

In that light, Mr. Harding, we encourage your efforts to bring financial stability to the Parks Division of the Michigan DNR, but urge you and your staff to protect the permanent existence of all the parks and recreation areas in Michigan. Raise rates, create new user fees, or even establish a state wide parks millage to ensure proper funding of these great resources.

Just as the MMBA has pledged to work along side the DNR as much as possible in order to assure a continuing high quality park and trail system, we must all work together towards this common goal. This is not a time to adopt a "let's wait and see" attitude. Now is the time to get involved.

Let the MMBA and the DNR know how you feel about the park system, your concerns, wishes or ideas for the future,

and the direction you would like to see the park system take.

B R B

Multi-Use Trail Activities/Events

July 11 - Hell-uv-a-ride. Sierra Club Ride contact Kevin Bell (313) 662-7603

July 19-25 - Sierra Club, North Country Trail Service Trip. Ralph Powell (313) 971-9013

July 19-26: Trail building in northern Michigan near Traverse City. Service trip sponsored by Sierra Club.

Special Summer Trail Project

Arden Johnson, with the North Country Trail, reports that he will be doing trail work on informal projects in northern Wexford and possibly eastern Charlevoix Counties during the summer, and would be glad to welcome volunteers to assist him. Tools, food, etc., are NOT provided, and there is not a set schedule, so you will have to contact him to make arrangements. For more information, contact Arden Johnson, 600 Tennyson, Rochester Hills, MI 48307 (313) 853-0292.

B R B



Addison Oaks — Is a Spring— Classic

By Chris Delridge

On what was potentially the most primo Sunday of this spring season, 457 enthusiastic mountain bikers rolled into Southeast Michigan for the 1992 Addison Oaks Spring Classic. And what a classic it was.

For those of you who are not familiar with Addison Oaks, listen carefully.

Addison Oaks is the Oakland County Park which developed a designated mountain bike trail and began sponsoring mountain bike races back when most government bureaucrats considered us the terrors of the nature trail. Fortunately for us, the folks at Oakland County Parks and Rec. were looking at our sport with their eyes open and their recreation programming minds working overtime.

Originally held in the open field "out front", the race has been growing and improving almost as fast as our bikes are becoming obsolete.

"The more we keep doing" says Jim "JimBo" Dunleavy, "the more everybody's been working together."

Jim's title is Program Supervisor, but for us he's the Race Director for the Addison Oaks Races (good news, there's a Fall Classic too). Jim's staff deserves a hardy "Yo! Great Job!" for their handling of all those fun things that go into a bike race. You know, things like registration, setting up the

course and supplying bananas and H2O.

"That's the key" Jim said, "even the sponsors pulled their weight. And the Point Series helped too."

Speaking of sponsors, this race's sponsors don't just lay out a couple of bucks and then wait for the receipts or the customers to beat down their doors. "Oh, contrar!" These sponsors participate.

Of course, I'm talking about those bike happy people from Tom Nell Bicycles LTD.. (How European, Tom) and Sterling Schwinn. (Yes, the Rochester store survived the explosion). Tom continued this domination of the Sport Over-the-Hill 55+ category, this time unopposed, and doing it at a pace which proves that Tom is only over the hills he rides over.

Ron and Sharon Schuman, the leaders of the Family Sterling Schwinn were competing in their own endurance sport. Their day begins early inspecting those finely tuned racing machines with the loose headsets, no brakes and death in the making plug-less handle bars. Being one who always seems to pay the price of the "other guy's "lack of God given sense, I certainly appreciate an inspecting eye.

Sharon may not have raced in the strictest sense of the word, but she broke every land speed record known to race day volunteers in her enduring efforts to keep the above mentioned H2O station fully supplied. Thanks to Sharon, the well never ran dry. And neither did the racing.

Addison Oaks was only the third leg of the 1992 MMBA Michigan Points Series and the

competition is already simmering. Warm weather and a full field didn't slow the action much.

The Women's Beginner class showed everyone that being either a women or a beginner doesn't mean your not competitive. Diane Neibeauer of Rochester battled Kathleen Breazeale of Milford to win by only 5 seconds.

Continuing their battle for the Point Series leadership in the Women's Expert class was last years second and third place finishers, Lorena Seldon of Shelby Twp. and Cheryl Burford of Grand Rapids. Lorena managed a 7 second lead at the end, setting the stage for future contests this summer.

Lewis "watch your pedal" Tripp is continuing his winning ways by comfortably taking the Sport Men 26-34 in 48:57.

Men's Expert I, left Brian Green of Waterford beating out an always aggressive Mike O'Reilly of Bloomfield Hills.

The Men's Michigan Pro racers always bring out the excitement, and Addison Oaks is no exception. Out of state speed king John Shell of Burbank, Ohio, squeaked by home boy Tim Swift (didn't you use to be a Roadie?) by a microscopic 2 seconds. Rounding out the top 5 and hot on their double butted spokes were Mark Crammer, Scott Quiring and Steve Hammett.

Great weather, great races and great people. The 1992 Addison Oaks Spring Classic will be a tough act to follow, but the cool news is that they'll be doing it again September

(Oaks cont. pg. 19)

(memb. cont. from pg. 11)

-Recent MMBA Members-

Michael O'Shea
 Alan Johnson
 Glen Feldpaush
 Patrick Lynch
 Howard Feit
 Lisa Leon
 Alan Johnson
 Darwin Gilbert
 Carl Slindée
 Douglas J. Peters
 Werner Gergen
 Timothy Grotjohn
 Steven Kotchouian
 Timothy Taylor
 Ben Van Houweling
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 Howard Feit

NEXT BRB DEADLINE
SEPT. 15

(DNR cont. for pg. 2)

ride, touch base with them,
 volunteer to work on trail
 projects.

Educate the younger riders
 you come in contact with, let
 riders who are being
 unsafe...know it. Lack of cour-
 tesy will be no excuse if it
 results in a trail being closed
 down.

Follow the MMBA responsi-
 bility code

Above all...enjoy Michigan
National Recreation
Trails Fund Update

On March 30, 1992, Gover-
 nor Engler signed a letter
 designation DNR Director,
 Roland Harmes as the adminis-
 trator of the Symms National
 Recreational Trails Fund Act in
 Michigan. We are waiting for
 direction from the U.S. Depart-
 ment of Transportation on
 administration details of the
 fund.

We anticipate this program
 to be a healthy shot in the arm
 for both motorized and non-
 motorized recreation trails in
 Michigan.

B R B

(Oaks cont. from pg. 18)

27th.

Primo I'd say.

*From the MMBA point
 Series Staff, special thanks to
 Joe O'Brien, Classic Race
 Management and the members
 of the "Male with the Tail Fan
 Club" for their magic with
 numbers and making square
 riders fit into round races.
 (P.S. Where can I get one of
 those shirts?)

B R B

MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Individual Member | 20.00 | Bike Shop/Dealer/Promoter | |
| Patron | 50.00 | Basic | 100.00 |
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- Updates on D.N.R. and other trail issues
- Membership card, car and bike stickers
- You can participate in the MMBA Championship Point Series at no charge
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